



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/998,764	11/29/2001	Masaki Nakamura	56232.13 [4925]	6474

7590 06/03/2004

Squire, Sanders & Dempsey L.L.P.
Suite 300
One Maritime Plaza
San Francisco, CA 94111

EXAMINER

MANLOVE, SHALIE A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

1755

DATE MAILED: 06/03/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/998,764

Applicant(s)

NAKAMURA ET AL.

Examiner

Shalie A. Manlove

Art Unit

1755

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 May 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 6, 8 and 34 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 7 and 9-33 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 6, 8 and 34 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Rejections Withdrawn

1. The 35 U.S.C. 112 rejections of claims 3-5 are withdrawn due to Applicants' amendment.

Rejections Repeated

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. Claims 1-3, 6, 8, and 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aida (US 6,235,099).

As to claims 1-3, Aida teaches inkjet recording liquid (abstract) and process for the production thereof comprising a pigment derivative having a polar group (col. 5, lines 18-64) and pigment particles (col. 4, lines 1-42) ranging from 0.01 to 0.1 microns or 10-100 nm (col. 3, lines 28), and a surfactant (col. 9, line 66) dispersed in a dispersion medium (see examples). A prima facie case of obviousness typically exists when the range of a claimed composition overlap the range disclosed in the prior art. *In re Malagari*, 499 F.2d 1297, 1303, 182 USPQ 549, 553 (CCPA 1974).

As to claim 6, Aida teaches a surfactant is added for the purpose of maintaining the dispersion of the pigment (col. 9, lines 63-65). It is well known in the art that the surfactant would adsorb on the surface of the pigment particles to decrease agglomeration amongst the particles.

As to claim 8, Aida teaches water-based or water-dispersed inkjet recording liquid to contain at least 50% water (col. 9, lines 15-18; col. 11, lines 12-19, 26-36 and col. 12, lines 27-35, and 42-51).

As to claim 34, Aida teaches the inkjet recording liquid comprising a pigment derivative with a polar group (col. 5, lines 50-64).

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments filed 5/17/2004 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

4. Applicant argues that Aida fails to teach the primary particle size between D90 and D10 being not more than 25 nanometers.

5. Aida discloses that the particle size is uniform and thus inherently teaches particles are the same size, therefore Aida obviously meets the conditions of the particle size with respect to claim 1.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Shalie A. Manlove whose telephone number is (571) 272-1372. The examiner can normally be reached on M-TH 6:30-4:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mark L. Bell can be reached on (571) 272-1362. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 1755

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Shalie A. Manlove
Examiner
Art Unit 1755

June 1, 2004



C. MELISSA KOSLOW
PRIMARY EXAMINER